

From the desk of Lt. Gen. Jefferson D. Howell Jr.

# Director's Message



## Seize the moment

President Lyndon Johnson could have been called a “momma’s boy” because he was very close to his mother. She played an important role in everything he did throughout his childhood and into manhood. However, he also had great respect for his father, who was a prominent political operative in Texas during the early 1900s.

President Johnson used to say that the best advice he got from his father was how important it was to “seize the moment.” His father told him that in the dynamics of business, or politics or human social activity, opportunity is very fleeting. He said that if one didn’t take advantage of opportunity when it arose, he would lose it very quickly. President Johnson did just that when he pushed through the civil rights legislation in the post-Kennedy assassination period.

Randy Stone seized the moment when he came to work at NASA. As a young graduate of the University of Texas, he had opportunities to work in the very robust petro-chemical and oil businesses in Texas, but he decided to come to work for NASA at the new Johnson Space Center in Houston. By taking

advantage of that opportunity, for the next 37 years he played a significant role in our nation’s history by being a part of the Gemini, Apollo, Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs. Randy Stone made history because he seized the moment as a young man.

Our President has given us a great opportunity with his new vision for space exploration. This will not be easy to do. However, if we don’t do it, it won’t get done. Therefore, all of us, if we are going to succeed at this, have to come together. First, we must help convince our fellow citizens of how important this is. Secondly, we must be willing to embrace change, whether in the way we do things or in our jobs themselves, while always striving for excellence.

You and I have a great opportunity to make history by participating in one of the noblest endeavors in the history of humankind. We are starting the journey into the cosmos.

LET’S SEIZE THE MOMENT!

It’s great to be alive and in Houston. Beak sends.

## Guest Space

**William Gerstenmaier**

International Space Station Program Manager



The integrated International Space Station Team – including the ISS Program office team, ISS teams at other NASA centers, the International Partners and the ISS contractor teams – has done a remarkable job maintaining the hardware and crew onboard the Space Station. The teams have also been planning and preparing new hardware and equipment for flight.

We have begun 2004 with our first-ever spacewalk where no crewmembers were left inside the Station. The preparation for this spacewalk helped us to learn more about Space Station systems and improve operational

interfaces with our Russian partners. The execution of the spacewalk was phenomenal. The teams were on top of their game and watching the execution of the spacewalk was exhilarating. This was spaceflight at its best. The suit cooling problem was handled professionally and well coordinated. Watching the

Russian and U.S. teams perform this joint activity showcased the strength of our partnership. We each are learning from each other.

On January 14, 2004, the President unveiled his new mission for the Agency. Space Station is accomplishing many things to prepare for the new exploration vision. We’re learning how to operate in space for long durations. Without the Space Shuttle operating in this time frame we’re learning how to get by with minimal supplies and how to do maintenance on board. ISS processes, analytical tools, lessons learned and skill bases could provide a significant jump-start for exploration and reduce costs. Our robotic operations and science investigations will also play a key role in exploration.

The future is bright for Space Station. We are doing today what others are dreaming and planning. We are developing the people, techniques and hardware that will be used for further exploration of the universe.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water...

# Beak's BEACH BASH

Featuring The Flightline Follies

Coming Soon!



Expedition 6 Science Officer Don Pettit took many nighttime photos of cities from the International Space Station. This photo of star trails over Earth at night is one of his favorites. “You’re in a place that has amazing beauty that offers a perspective that’s completely different from when you live on the surface of the planet,” Pettit said, “to be in that environment and not be able to take pictures would be a cruel act. It would be like being in a candy store and not being able to sample any of the candies.”

